

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 091848

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DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTONJR:MAR

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTONJR.

S/S: JLHOGANSON

S - MR PASSAGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 091848

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, LE, US, SY

SUBJECT: LEBANON

REF: DAMASCUS 2275

REPORT OF YOUR CONVERSATION WITH DAOUDI (REFTEL) HAS CAUSED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PUZZLEMENT, AND THE SECRETARY WANTED ME TO CALL THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO YOUR ATTENTION.

WHILE WE APPRECIATE WHAT YOU AND DAOUDI WERE SEEKING TO DO IN ORDER TO GUARD AGAINST NEGATIVE REACTION BY ASAD, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE TO HAVE FOUND SOME WAY OF DOING THIS OTHER THAN SUGGESTING THAT YOU HAD DOUBTS ABOUT CONVEYING AN INSTRUCTION YOU HAD RECEIVED. ALSO, IN PARA 2 REFTTEL, YOU REFER TO "MESSAGE", ALTHOUGH I ASSUME THIS IS SIMPLY A MATTER OF DRAFTING SINCE PARA 1 REFTTEL INDICATES THAT YOU MADE CLEAR TO DAOUDI THAT YOU WERE NOT RPT NOT DELIVERING A SPECIFIC MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT. FINALLY, YOUR REFERENCE TO YOUR DEMARCHE ON RECENT SYRIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF US POLICY GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU HAD RATHER DOWNPLAYED THIS. AGAIN, I ASSUME THIS WAS A MATTER OF DRAFTING AND THAT YOU DID IN FACT MAKE CLEAR OUR UNHAP-

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PINESS ABOUT THE PRESS ARTICLE IN QUESTION. KISSINGER

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